

WEATHER ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

[The Marine Division, WILLIS E. HURD acting in charge]

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, APRIL 1940

By H. C. HUNTER

Atmospheric pressure.—The average atmospheric pressure during April 1940 showed only slight departures from normal over the entire North Atlantic Ocean, with extremes of +1.0 and -1.9 millibars indicated at Julianehaab, Greenland, and Horta, Azores, respectively.

The highest reading thus far found for the month, 1036 millibars (30.59 inches), was reported from the American steamship *Mormacstar* during the evening of the 12th, near latitude 51° N., longitude 39° W. The lowest mark, 972.6 millibars (28.72 inches), was noted aboard the Dutch liner *Bilderdijk*, early in the afternoon of the 21st, in latitude 49°25' N., longitude 21°51' W.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure (sea level) at selected stations for the North Atlantic Ocean and its shores, April 1940

Station	Average pressure	Departure	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	<i>Millibars</i>	<i>Millibars</i>	<i>Millibars</i>		<i>Millibars</i>	
Julianehaab, Greenland....	1,011.2	+1.0	1,034	16	996	25
Horta, Azores.....	1,019.1	-1.9	1,031	3	996	21
Belle Isle, Newfoundland ¹ ..	1,012.6	+0.4	1,032	11	988	6
Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	1,014.4	+0.9	1,029	11	993	22, 23
Nantucket.....	1,013.1	-1.8	1,028	29	987	22
Hatteras.....	1,016.2	+0.1	1,028	6	996	21
Bermuda ²	1,018.4	-0.6	1,026	8	1,006	29
Turks Island.....	1,015.7	-0.9	1,019	30	1,010	21
Key West.....	1,017.1	+0.5	1,021	14, 29	1,011	21
New Orleans.....	1,015.7	-0.2	1,029	13	1,005	18

¹ For 23 days.

² For 22 days.

NOTE.—All data based on available observations; departures compiled from best available normals related to time of observation, except Hatteras, Key West, Nantucket, and New Orleans, which are 24-hour corrected means.

Cyclones and gales.—The first half of the month was apparently less stormy than usual at the time of year, but the second half was rather more stormy. The week from 8th to 14th is indicated as the least disturbed portion of the month.

A low which was over the region of the Great Lakes on

the morning of the 4th advanced to Newfoundland during the ensuing 48 hours, with a notable gain in energy. The Danish S. S. *Frode*, within the influence of this cyclone on the 6th, noted a wind of force 11. During the next few days the low traveled to the northeastward, losing much of its energy, as far as available reports indicate.

On the morning of the 19th two cyclones of considerable strength were charted, one over the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the other to the northwestward of the Azores. By the evening of the 20th these had united near 45° N., 30° W., to form a storm of greater energy than either low had displayed hitherto. The Dutch steamer *Bilderdijk*, on the 21st, noted unusually low barometer and wind of force 11. The movement of this storm during the 21st and the next few days was apparently toward the east.

On the morning of the 26th there was a low of slight energy a short distance east of Florida, moving slowly to northeastward. By the 28th there had been some gain in strength and the position was not far to northeastward of Bermuda. On this day and the 29th, as a result of the proximity of this low to a large-area high extending from Newfoundland to the Carolinas, many vessels near the eastern coast of the United States encountered very strong winds. The American S. S. *Washington* estimated force 12, the only instance known of such wind over the North Atlantic this month. The high consolidated toward the southwest end of the area it had covered and lost some strength before the month closed, while the low, moving but slightly, likewise decreased in energy.

Fog.—From reports at hand, indications are that fog was most plentiful over the coastal waters between Cape Cod and Hatteras. Occurrences of fog in that area were recorded on 12 days during the month. Two instances were noted in the Gulf of Mexico, the first on the 3d a short distance to the southeast of Galveston and the second on the 25th just west of Key West.

Fog was reported also on 7 days during the month over the central ship route between Sable Island and Horta. Elsewhere over the ocean only scattered fog reports were received from ships during the month.